

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed September 1, 2009. This Response addresses each of the issues raised by the examiner in the Office Action. This Response accompanies a timely filed Request for Reconsideration (RCE). Accordingly entry of this Office Action and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Substance of Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Roswell for the interview conducted on 1/5/2010. In compliance with 37 CFR 1.133(b), Applicant is providing a summary of the interview. Claims 1, 20, 26, and 30 were discussed with respect to the 103 rejection in view of the Van Dort reference.

Status

Claims 1-17, 20, 22-30 and 32-34 are pending. Claims 18, 19, 21 and 31 remain canceled. Claims 1, 20, 26 and 30 are currently amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-17, 20, 23-30 and 33-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer in view of Van Dort, in further view of Silver, and further evidenced by Matrix Vision. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

On page 4 of the Office Acton, the Examiner acknowledges that Meyer “fails to explicitly teach providing a first VP with a link function, the link function being a control function executable by the first VP, and executing the link function so as to issue instructions from the first VP to the UI to establish communication with the VP.” The Examiner relies on the Van Dort reference to teach that which the Meyer reference fails to disclose. However, the Van

Dort reference, or any other reference of record, does not explicitly disclose “performing at least part of a machine vision task configured by the at least one distinct and separate machine vision UI, using at least one of the first distinct and separate VP and the any second distinct and separate VP, in accordance with the instructions issued by the first distinct and separate VP upon execution of the link function.”

Van Dort teaches various equipment and actuator units connected to a central unit and memory by way of a common communication channel. These equipment and actuator units include devices such as a television, a stereo, switches, and various sensors. These are vastly different than the distinct and separate VPs, one of which issues instructions to a distinct and separate machine vision UI. The instructions issued *by* the first distinct and separate VP allow a connection to be established between a second distinct and separate VP and the distinct and separate machine vision UI. After this connection is established, at least one of the plurality of distinct and separate VPs performs *at least part of a machine vision task*. In direct contrast, the actuator units of Van Dort may issue instructions to the equipment units, and *not* to at least one distinct and separate machine vision UI. Additionally, once an equipment unit receives those instructions, the equipment unit does not establish a connection to a second distinct and separate VP, but merely changes state, e.g. turns on or off, based on the issued instructions. There is no contemplation of any of those actuator or equipment units performing any part of a machine vision task. Thus, claim 1 as amended should be allowable over the prior art.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 20, 26, and 30 for substantially the same reasons as that of claim 1.

The claims should now be in condition for allowance with each of the objections and/or rejections being addressed or traversed. Accordingly applicant respectfully requests the examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date.

Should any unresolved issues remain that require further attention, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney for applicant at 603-336-3026 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Please charge any fee or fee deficiency that is otherwise unpaid to Deposit Account Number 504479.

Respectfully Submitted,



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